

“DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE, RIPPLES OF THE SPIRIT”
“Ripples of Faith”

In times of fear and uncertainty, people tend to make their world smaller, to draw their circle smaller, draw lines in the sand and create rules and laws that make it clear who is in and who is out. This first Sunday after Pentecost is known as “Trinity Sunday.” On Trinity Sunday, the church celebrates the triune nature of our God- who is made known as Father, Son and Spirit. The Holy Trinity is one way that God sets an example by drawing a wider circle. God is not limited to one form, but takes on many characteristics, and is made known in community itself. This week as you continue to look at ripples of faith throughout the spaces you live, work, and play in be reminded often that the God we worship and have faith in is a holy community, and we are invited to participate. Pastor Rebecca Goltry Mohr

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Ripples of Faith”**

Daily prayer: *Holy God, Three in One, you are our eternal hope, our companion in life, our liberating power. Lead us in your mission, baptizing and teaching in your blessed name, so that all may worship you to the end of the age.*

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, June 17, 2019 Deuteronomy 6:4-9

The command to love God is one of the most distinctive doctrines in Deuteronomy, acting as an important corrective to the emphasis upon awe and fear in worship. As we are in our second week of "Draw the Circle Wide" the command to love is and show love as a visible sign is how we begin to see an inclusive church mobilize. As the author writes, we are to recite love to our children, bind love as a sign on your hand, and write love on our doorposts and on our gates. *What visible manifestations of loving God with all your heart, soul, and might do you have already in your life? How can you add to this to be a faithful witness to God's love?*

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 Proverb 8:22-31

The writer of this proverb shares about wisdom being present at the beginning of creation. Wisdom and faith are often set up as contrasting ideas. One can have great wisdom but little faith or one can have great faith and no wisdom. Wisdom and faith should be paired together, when they complement each other, the lived out experiences of our journey knowing God points toward being a wise and faithful people. What thoughts come to mind when you think about wisdom (personified in the proverb) being present before God created? In verse 27, "I was there, when he drew a circle in the face of the deep" reminds us that wisdom was always with God and that the boundaries that God put into order in creation were initiated so that we could order our lives in a way that leads to faithfulness. *Take a sheet of paper, draw a line down the middle and write "faith" and "wisdom" on the top of the paper. Throughout your day, journal your actions and thoughts under faith or wisdom. At the conclusion of your day- I challenge you to read each item, under their headers, as you do this imagine how that item could also fall in the other side of the paper. Remember that we worship a God that is mysterious, and complex. Open up to the possibility of wisdom and faith working together in profound ways.*

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 Luke 7:1-10

This scripture shows Jesus' compassion as a pastoral care giver, who leaves the circle open wide to engage in Spirit-led ministry with all people. The centurion would have been powerful, think of a diplomat working for the government. He had many people working for him and he knows his power and privilege but he nevertheless sends the religious elders from Capernaum to bring Jesus to heal the slave. Since the centurion believes that Jesus can heal his slave, Jesus says that he has faith. Jesus opens up the circle for all people to experience the miracle of healing. *Draw a circle on a piece of paper, using a pencil write groups of people that you often exclude or easily dismiss on the blank space outside of your circle. On the inside of the circle write groups and people that are easy to associate and work with. Now draw lines connecting each of the groups from outside the circle to inside the circle and write how you can be more open to ALL people on each of the lines going toward the circle. Pray that you might be a person of peace an openness for all to experience the love of Christ.*

Thursday, June 20, 2019 Romans 8:14-17

The Spirit is our guide, when we allow God to lead us and are open to the twists and turns life might take when accompanied by the Spirit is when the circle grows wider. Pray this special prayer today by Thomas G. Pettepiece that appears in "Visions of a World Hungry." *God of hope whose spirit gives light and power to your people, empower us to witness to your name in all the nations, to struggle for your own justice against all principalities and powers and to persevere with faith and humor in the tasks that you have given to us. Without you we are powerless. We ask this in the name of the Spirit who lives and sojourns with us. Amen.*

Friday, June 21, 2019 Psalm 8

Divine splendor and human design, this Psalm is a glorious song of praise, addressed to God, celebrating the wonderful and majestic nature of God's work and presence in all the earth. After Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday, the church spends several months in "Kingdom-tide," when the church grows and celebrates our good and gracious God. We have a creator God who imagined all of the birds of the air, animals in the seas, and the craftiness of humanity. We have Jesus Christ who lived and reigned with us here on earth, he healed the sick, ate with sinners, and gave us the first taste of heaven through his resurrection. And we have the Holy Spirit, the advocate who inspires us to live out our calling as people loving our Triune God. Living in Kingdom-tide means that we affirm all three natures of God and seek to shout songs of praises and adoration for the work God has done. *Take time to be thankful today! When you begin feeling tense or frustrated, turn to Psalm 8 and repeat the first line, "O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"*